





## PORTLAND'S CITY FATHERS.

The Skidmore Fountain to be Formally Accepted by the City Saturday.

The Multnomah Street Railway Asks for a New and Extensive Franchise—The N. P. Terminal Co.—Usual Business Transacted.

The members of the common council were all in their places when Mayor DeLashau called the meeting to order last evening. A communication from the Skidmore fountain committee was read asking the mayor and council to meet the committee at the completed fountain Saturday to formally accept it for the city.

Mayor DeLashau asked Mr. Charles E. Sitten of the committee, who was present, what the programme would be for the occasion. Adopting the report of the viewers in the matter of a sewer in N street, passed.

**RECEIVED ORDINANCES.**

Making an appropriation out of the general fund to provide for the repair of streets in the city; appropriating it would be merely a presentation speech and one by the city in acceptance.

Establishing the grade of South Second street; passed.

Establishing the grade of Multnomah street; passed.

Providing for the improvement of South Front street; passed.

Chancing and establishing the grade of South Front street; passed.

Providing for the time and manner of constructing a sewer in J street; passed.

Adopting the report of the city surveyor in the matter of the proposed extension of W street; passed.

Providing for the improvement of the north end of N street in the Twenty-first to Twenty-third; passed.

Resolutions.

Directing the auditor and clerk to issue warrants to the chief of police for collection of delinquent assessments for a sewer in Taylor street; passed.

Accepting the improvement of Fifteenth street between Jackson and Elizabeth streets and directing the drawing of a warrant for \$21.65 in favor of the Oregon Paving & Contracting Company. In payment thereof;

Adopting the Northern Pacific Terminal Company to lay two temporary railroad tracks in North Front street, while making improvements on their property, not to exceed \$10,000.

Giving notice of intention to improve North Front street from F to S; adopted.

Giving notice of intention to improve N street from North Eleventh to Front by re-planking it. Adopted. Council adjourned.

**SAFETY LAW VIOLATED.**

Fish Commissioners Detest—Governor Pennoyer Causes the Arrest of Violators.

The fish commissioners have evidently al-

lowed Mr. Taaffe of Celilo, to pull wood over their eyes in some mysterious manner. It might not be well to interfere with them.

Mr. Fleder said that drivers of other ve-

hicles took advantage of this matter to drive

at a trot. He moved that the chief of police be directed to see that there were no

other violations of the law in this respect.

Mr. Fleder called attention to the fact

that while a considerable sum was being ex-

pended for the repairing of bridges, the

men of the first street line were driving

cars First street bridge at a trot, to its

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**The Oregonian.**  
PORTLAND, THURSDAY, SEPT. 20.

GERMAN'S STATESMANLIKE SPEECH.

John Sherman rises more nearly to the height of statesmanship in his discussion of an important public question than any man who has yet spoken in criticism of the president's demagogic appeal to be clothed with ample powers of retaliation against Canada. The writer of the "fisher" in policy. To understand the force of Sherman's criticism upon the president's administration, it is worth while to notice the facts that are incident in this controversy with Canada.

By the treaty of peace negotiated at Paris in 1873 between Great Britain and the colonies, the mother country conceded to the United States an equal ownership in the fisheries along the Atlantic coast. This concession was in part surrendered by the United States by the treaty of 1888, and ever since that date there has been a pernicious disturbance over fisherman's rights and a demand for readjustment of the settlement of 1888. Canada has never ceased to annoy American fisherman since 1888, save during the life of the reciprocity treaty of 1886, which terminated in 1890. During the life of the fisherman articles of the treaty of 1873, as the treaty of Washington. It was not the interest of Canada to feed our fisherman during the twelve years of life of the treaty of 1873, which terminated in 1888. But in 1885 American fishing vessels, seeking the same rights in Canadian waters that Canadian fisherman enjoy in American waters, were seized, their crews arrested, fined, and treated with gross indelicacy and inhumanity. This hauling down of the American flag from the masthead of American vessels by Canadian customs officers excited so much indignation in the New England seaboard that early in 1887 the congressionally passed an act empowering President Cleveland to enforce a code of legal retaliation, warranted by the provocation and equal to the situation. This was not what Cleveland wanted, for in his first message in 1886 he recommended the appointment of a commission to "frame a new fisheries treaty"; but the senate in April, 1888, by a vote of 35 to 10, voted against the president's recommendation, and urged retaliation.

So a retaliation act was passed in that year, followed by the more stringent measure of May, 1888. The president, who evidently desired a vote of no confidence in the senate, paid no heed to the policy of legitimate retaliation recommended by Congress, but instead Sherman puts out, without constitutional authority, proceeded to appoint commissioners to draft a new fisheries treaty. This treaty was negotiated and was defeated by New England, as a cowardly and stupid sacrifice of its fishery interests; the republican members of the senate voted solidly against ratification, and the treaty failed. The next President Cleveland, true to his vulgar training and low instincts as a blood-thirsty war-politician, eight months after Congress had rejected the power to retaliate in kind, for Canadian outrage, asked congress to give him illimitable power to retaliate entirely beyond the intent of the original act, and entirely unnecessary and unwarranted by the circumstances. Congress meant by its act of 1887 simply to meet out to Canadian vessels neither better nor worse treatment than Canada enforced against our fishermen; but the president called for a retaliation act so wide in its scope that its enforcement would amount practically to a state of non-intercourse and a condition of affairs that would, as Sherman remarks, be likely to lead to war. Cleveland did this, not because he believed in necessary and proper authority to authorize him to thwart the whole interests and honest interests of Canada, and the United States from New Brunswick to British Columbia, but because as a cheap politico he thought he saw a fine chance to "catch the Irish vote" by posing as the great North American bull-tyrant of the British lion. In order to impress a certain degree of plausibility to his message, he declared he had discovered that the 20th article of the treaty of 1873, conferring discretionary authority for transit privileges through foreign territory, is no longer operative. Senator Edmunds, in the debate which ensued, bitterly overthrew the previous claim of the president's by producing a letter addressed by Secretary Buxton to Senator Sherman, a year ago, in which it is distinctly admitted that the state department still considers article 20 of the treaty of 1873 to be in force.

#### THE PEOPLE'S HOUR.

In that letter Mr. Buxton said: "Only the fisher articles of the treaty of Washington were abrogated. The remaining articles, comprising those which relate to the fisheries, and those between the United States and British North American possessions, are still in force."

It is perfectly clear that all the contracting parties had treated this article as in full force; Congress has never taken any steps to abrogate it, but whether the article is in force or not, Senator Sherman points out that the president is already clothed with sufficient power to redress by legitimate retaliation, under the act of 1887, any grievances of ours against Canada.

During the original debate on the president's supererogatory appeal for discretionary powers of retaliation, his letter of April 7, 1887, addressed to the American Fishery Union at Gloucester, Mass., was quoted to his complete confusion. This union, on the passage of the act of March, 1887, suggested that sufficient retaliation might be had by simply "prohibiting Canadian-caught fish from entering the ports of the United States." The president replied that congress had divested him of "exceedingly grave and solemn responsibilities, comprehending highly important consequences;" that the effectiveness of a retaliation measure depended "upon the thoroughness and extent of its application," and, if particular interests were injured, and special advantages profited, then the measure was "wholly unsatisfactory for the public good." This letter closed with the declaration that "in the performance of the serious duty which the congress has imposed upon me in the exercise upon just occasion of the power conferred under the act referred to I shall do my best bound to inflict no unnecessary damage or injury upon any portion of our people."

President Cleveland waits sixteen months after writing this letter without using the power of retaliation he admitted in April, 1887, he possessed, and then sends congress a drum and trumpet demand for authority to retaliate. And this is the man whom his party dub the "statesman"! He is a graduate of the school of contempt of contemptible political trickery and demagogery as his leading rival for the table, Mr. George W. Hill of New York. Cleveland, with constitutional authority and in contempt of the legislative instructions of congress, negotiated a treaty by which rights claimed by our fisherman for fifty years were given away, the administration reserving the right to buy them back by giving up the duty on fish. The moment this treaty is rejected the president's mood changes and he hastens to ask authority to flap a red bandana in the face of the British lion. The explanation of this change we find in the following dispatch sent out immediately by the chairman of the democratic state committee of Ohio: "We are to let the fisherman stand, and our friends in Boston, Cleveland and on his message on the fishery treaty and get up demonstration, if possible."

John Sherman, Ohio's state committee, This is the story of the nature of the president's administration." It is, in practice, the same story as that of the administration of the British lion.

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